

In the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0066], [0068] and [0071] with the following replacement paragraphs:

[0066] Figure 11 illustrates a distributed store node using a differencing mechanism to synchronize instances of a primary state to a back-up node, according to one embodiment. Distributed store node 440A 110 may include a primary state 112 of session data. In one embodiment, distributed store node 440A 110 is part of or associated with one of one or more application servers in a distributed or clustered system. In one embodiment, the primary state may be distributed across multiple stores (e.g. computer-accessible mediums and/or other systems). Back-up node 506 may be another distributed store node associated with another application server in the system. In another embodiment, back-up node 506 may be part of a backend system or a dedicated back-up system.

[0068] In one embodiment, distributed store node 440A 110 may retain a benchmark state 500. This benchmark state 500 may be a copy of or otherwise indicate a back-up instance of the primary state on one or more other nodes. In other embodiments, benchmark state 500 may be stored elsewhere and be provided to or accessed by the differencing mechanism 502. Differencing mechanism 502 may generate a primary state delta 504 between primary state 112 and the benchmark state 500. Primary state delta 504 may indicate differences in session data between the primary state 112 and the benchmark state 500.

[0071] After differencing mechanism 502 generates primary state delta 504, distributed store node 440A 110 may provide primary state delta 504 to back-up node 506, and back-up node 506 may synchronize its instance of the primary state data 508 with the primary state 112 using primary state delta 504. The differencing mechanism 502 may provide a mechanism for obtaining modified attributes so that the load on resources (e.g. the network) may be reduced by sending only the modified and not the unmodified portions

of the session data to the backend system 506. In another embodiment, instead of comparing the primary state 112 to a benchmark state 500, differencing mechanism 502 eliminate immutable attributes from the primary state 112 and supply the remaining attributes as primary state deltas 504.